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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/771,293

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Kazuyo Ikeda

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EXAMINER

PATEL, JAYESH A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/771,293	Applicant(s) IKEDA, KAZUYO	
	Examiner JAYESH PATEL	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7,13-15,17,18 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7,13-15,17,18 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 11 2009 has been entered.

The arguments are moot in view of the amendments.

Claims 3-4, 6, 8-12, 16 and 19-21 are canceled by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niblack et al (US 6182069) hereafter Niblack in view of Anderson (US 20030112357) hereafter Anderson.

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Regarding claim 1, Niblack discloses an image search apparatus (**Fig 1**) which searches for an image, the apparatus comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images (**Fig 1 Element 36 which stores pluralities of images**);

region information storage means (**Fig 1 Element 34 which stores thumbnails or partial images**) for storing partial images included in the respective images stored in said image storage means in correspondence with the respective images;

region feature storage means (**Fig 1 Element 35 which stores image features of the partial images or thumbnails**) for storing features of the partial images stored said region information storage means in correspondence with the respective partial images;

receiving (**query search in the QBIC**) means for receiving a feature as a search condition to search for the target image (**Fig 1 Element 23 which is query window used for receiving the search condition Col 3 Lines 54-55**);

search means for searching for an image including a partial image which contains a feature corresponding to the search query (**Fig 1 Element 32 QBIC Engine which searches for image including a partial image or thumbnail (which have features Fig 1 element 35) images Col 4 Lines 6-18**). Niblack discloses the display (**Fig 1 Element 13 to display the searched image**).

Niblack however does not expressly recite search result display means for displaying a searched image, enlarging the partial image corresponding to the

search query in the searched image, and composing the enlarged partial image, of the searched image, on to the displayed searched image.

Anderson discloses search result display means for displaying a searched image, enlarging the partial image corresponding to the search condition at **(Para 0032 and 0033 where the thumbnail 700 becomes the selected or searched image and a large thumbnail image of the searched image is automatically displayed)**, and composing **(displaying the searched image together with the enlarged searched image as seen in Fig 3 and paras 0033 and 0034)** the enlarged partial image, on to the displayed searched image. Anderson discloses the apparatus and the image processing carried out by displaying a large thumbnail of the searched image with the searched image as seen in fig 3 and at paras 0033-0034 reduces the burden of searching and provide a more easily examined image set **(motivation in para 0008)**. Anderson and Niblack are from the same field of endeavor and are analogous art, therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate enlarged view of the partial images with searched image together as taught by Anderson in the apparatus of Niblack for the above reasons.

Regarding Claim 2, Niblack and Anderson disclose the apparatus according to claim 1. Niblack further discloses wherein when a plurality of searched images are obtained on the basis of a search result and plurality of searched images in

the form of a list (**Element 13, Fig 6 Col 8 Lines 29-42, fig 9 Col 10 Lines 17-25 and Col 18 Lines 24-28**). Anderson discloses the display means for displaying the plurality of searched images as seen in Fig 3 and at paras 0033-0034. Thus Anderson and Niblack together would achieve the invention of claim 2.

Regarding claim 5, Niblack and Anderson disclose the apparatus according to claim 1. Anderson further disclose wherein said search result display means composes a plurality of partial images (**thumbnails 700 displayed as a list on the top of the screen as seen in Fig 3 and the display shows the searched image together with the enlarged searched image as seen in Fig 3 and paras 0033 and 0034**) while maintaining a relative positional relationship between the plurality of partial images (**Figs 3 and Fig 4 discloses the positional relationship between the images, Fig 4 element 1006 shows the position of the image**).

Regarding claim 7, Niblack and Anderson disclose the apparatus according to claim 1. Anderson discloses further the sizes of the partial images at **para 0031**. Anderson further disclose the display of the searched partial image and the enlarged thumbnail of the searched image together (unified or brought together) to a predetermined size of display (**thumbnails 700 displayed as a list on the top of the screen as seen in Fig 3 and the display shows the searched**

image together with the enlarged serached image as seen in Fig 3 and paras 0033 and 0034).

Claim 18 is a corresponding method claim of Claim 1. See the explanation of Claim 1.

Claim 22 is a corresponding computer readable recording medium claim of Claim 1. See the explanation of Claim 1.

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niblack in view of Anderson and in further view of Karaki et al (US 5612715) hereafter Karaki .

Regarding Claim 13, Niblack and Anderson disclose the apparatus according to claim 1. Anderson discloses the display as seen in Fig 3 and para 0033-0034. Niblack and Anderson are silent and however do not expressly disclose wherein the apparatus further comprises switching means for switching display of a plurality of searched images in said search result display means, and said search result display means alternately displays the plurality of searched images at the same position one by one on the basis of a switching instruction from said switching means.

Karaki discloses display switching means (**M25 Fig 3, Figs 14a-14c, Col 10 lines 34-36 where pluralities of images are switched between the screens**). Karaki disclose that the switching display view improves the viewability of the user at (**Col 10 lines 13**) in a plurality of images being viewed. Niblack, Anderson and Karaki are from the same field of endeavor and are analogous art, therefore it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have increase the view ability of the user in the apparatus of Niblack and Anderson for the above reasons.

Regarding Claim 14, Niblack and Anderson disclose the apparatus according to claim 1. Niblack and Anderson both disclose the image being displayed. Anderson discloses further the sizes of the partial images at **para 0031**. Anderson further disclose the display of the searched partial image and the enlarged thumbnail of the searched image together (unified or brought together) to a predetermined size of display (**thumbnails 700 displayed as a list on the top of the screen as seen in Fig 3 and the display shows the searched image together with the enlarged serached image as seen in Fig 3 and paras 0033 and 0034**). Karaki discloses the image size in (**Figs 14a-14c**).

Regarding Claim 15, See (**Figs 14a-14c**) in Karaki where the partial images are circumscribed with a rectangle.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niblack in view of Anderson and in further view of Brown et al. (US 6356908) hereafter Brown.

Regarding Claim 17, Niblack and Anderson discloses the apparatus according to claim 1. Niblack also disclose region feature storage means stores, as a feature of the image, at least one of concept information expressing a concept obtained from the partial image in **(Fig 5)**. Niblack however do not disclose wherein the region feature storage means stores, as a feature of the image, at least one of concept information expressing the concept obtained from the partial image, text information expressing the concept of the partial image and an image feature expressing a feature of the partial image.

Brown discloses wherein the region feature storage means stores, as a feature of the image, at least one of concept information expressing the concept obtained from the partial image, text information expressing the concept of the partial image and an image feature expressing a feature of the partial image.

(Fig 5,6 and Figs 9 and 10). Brown discloses presenting a set of thumbnail images of the linked pages in the database near the links to the linked pages at **(Col 2 Lines 18-20)**. Niblack, Anderson and Brown are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor and are analogous art. The suggestion/motivation would be that a textual name followed by a short textual description of the linked page does not provide sufficient information to enable

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one to make an intelligent decision as to open the link at **(Col 1 Lines 55-59)** disclosed by Brown. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brown in the Query system and method of Niblack and Anderson to get the claimed invention.

Other cited prior art

The other relevant prior art to the subject matter not relied on are (US 20040070631), (US 20040165789), (US 20050047681), (US 7545413), (US 5838837) and (US 6515704).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAYESH PATEL whose telephone number is (571)270-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner can be reached on 571-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

06/18/2009
/JAYESH PATEL/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Aaron W Carter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624